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processes proposed up to the present time do not fulfill the practical requirements of public disinfection."

"In any case the use of formic aldehyd can not do away with the necessity of sending to the steam chamber linen, clothes, mattresses, carpets, and all other objects that should be disinfected by being submitted to the action of steam under pressure." So we see the question is by no means settled in this country, although having arrived at diametrically opposite results each party seems to be convinced that it is in the right and each is largely resting on its arms.

In closing, it might be interesting to note that some weeks ago in a lecture at the Pasteur Institute on the subject of disinfectants, Professor Roux said in substance :

"Formaldehyd gas, while having slight penetrating power is, when properly employed, a practically perfect surface disinfectant, and in a room denuded of fabrics, etc., this is all we require. In all cases it is far superior to the method now employed by the municipal authorities, namely, that of using a fine spray of a solution of bichloride.

It has been shown that the spaces on the walls, etc., between the various particles of the solution thus projected are, compared with the size of a bacillus, simply enormous, so such a process can have absolutely no disinfecting power."

*Marseilles quarantines against Cape Town on account of plague.*

PARIS, February 15, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a circular has been issued by the minister of the interior to the sanitary authorities at the port of Marseilles, directing them to consider Cape Town and neighboring ports as infected with plague, and to put in force all the precautionary measures prescribed by the regulations for vessels coming from these ports.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,

*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

GERMANY.

*Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera news.*

BERLIN, GERMANY, February 2, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following information obtained from the imperial health office.

\* \* \* \* \*

EGYPT.—A case of plague occurred on the steamer *Senegal* of the Messageries Maritimes, which arrived in Alexandria from Smyrna and Beirut on January 11. After undergoing the prescribed disinfection the steamer was placed under quarantine, but on the evening of January 11 proceeded to Marseilles. The sick man, as well as those travelers whose destination was Egypt, were conveyed to the quarantine hospital.

BRITISH EAST INDIA.—In the city of Bombay, during the week ended December 15, 112 new cases of plague were reported. Of the 826 deaths during this week and the 913 deaths in the week ended December 22, inclusive of those dying of suspected plague, 285 and 343, respectively, resulted from plague. Eighty-one and 111, respectively, of these are demonstrated to be deaths from plague, that is to say more than reported in the two previous weeks.